Celebrating the Life & Ministry

of

Mother Rozetter Harris Graham

FORMER SUPERVISOR TO GHANA, WEST AFRICA,

Church of God In Christ, Inc.

Sunrise, January 3, 1906 *Sunset, April 8, 2005*

Monday, April 18, 2005, 11:00 A.M.

Emmanuel Church of God in Christ

1399 East 33rd Street, Los Angeles, California

Elder Wilbert Jones, Jr., Officiant

Mother Rozetter Harris Graham

A Mother In Zion

Songs Mother Loved

Mother deeply treasured the songs of Zion. She held on to her well worn red "Sweet Wonder" song book. She also had the words to several songs written in her little address book for easy reference. She often called to minister to us with a special song God put on her heart. In the last several months, she kept singing "I've Got a Robe" and her face would just light up with joy! Mother also enjoyed singing along with Bishop G.E. Patterson's new recording of old time favorites -- we would turn on the recording and she would sing along and just have church!! What a blessing!! Just read the words of these old songs, you'll see how they lifted the spirit of mother's soul!! Mother Kathryn Bankhead

Thou Carest Lord,

Thou carest Lord, thou carest Lord,
Thou carest Lord, for me for me . . .
Let your light shine bright in the darkest night
Thou carest Lord, for me

Joy Bells

Joy Bells keep ringing in my soul
Joy Bells keep ringing in my soul
Joy Bells, Joy Bells,
Joy Bells keep ringing in my soul

Glorify His Name

I come to glorify His Name, Glorify His Name
I come to glorify His Name, Glorify His Name
I come to glorify the Name of the Lord
Let us glorify His Name

Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King
allelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the King
Should there be any rivers we must cross
Should there be any mountains we must climb
God will provide all the strength that we need
And we know we will meet on the other side.

I Keep Falling in Love with Him

I keep falling in love with Him
Ov'er and Over and Over and Over again
I keep falling in love with Him
Ov'er and Over and Over and Over again
He grows sweeter and sweeter
as the days go by
O what a love between my Lord and I
I just keep falling in love with Him
Over and Over and Over and Over again!

Jesus on the Main Line

Jesus on the main line, Tell Him what you want
Jesus on the main line, Tell Him what you want
Jesus on the main line, Tell Him what you want
Call Him up and tell Him what you want.

Let Jesus Fix It for You

Let Jesus fix it for you
For He knows just what to do
Whenever you pray, let Him have His way
And He will fix it for you

I've Got a Robe

I've got a robe, you've got a robe
We've got a robe in heaven
When I get to heaven
I'm going to put on my robe
And walk all around God's heaven!

Family Tribute

Rozetter Harris Graham was known by many as Mother Rosie Graham. To some, she was Mother Rozetter Harris. To her family as Aunt Rosie; but to H.B. and wife, Irma, she was always known and affectionately called Mom.

We rejoice that her belief in the promise of God in Psalm 73:24 is now fulfilled, "Thou shall guide me with thy counsel and afterward receive me to glory." Her daily life gave evidence to the fact that she believed God's word and followed His guidance, seeking His leadership in all that she said and did. She was upright and loving and kind in all her ways. She had an encouraging word, a smile for all those she met along life's way. Therefore, we wish to express our appreciation in recognition of her faithful service, we offer this tribute of love and esteem.

Yours was a beautiful life;
You wrought well while here.
You were generous with your time.
You toiled from year to year.
Many a life you did touch,
Always doing your part,
Glad to serve when called upon,
With a meek and humble heart.
Your life was dedicated
To things Noble and true.
It was no task for you to work
That, you want to do!
You will never be forgotten
Though you have passed away
The deeds you have left behind
Will live on each day.
Sleep, sleep on, and take your rest
This act of God we dare not question.
For He alone, knows best.

We express our gratitude to God for having left this beautiful life among us for a time to blossom out and bless us with its sweetness and righteousness, like the fragrance of a rose.

We love you, but God loves you best
H.B. and Irma Williams

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional.....Clergy & Family
Master of Ceremony.....Elder Lee Andrew Davis
Selection.....Choir
Prayer of Triumph.....Evangelist Henry Davis

Scripture Reading

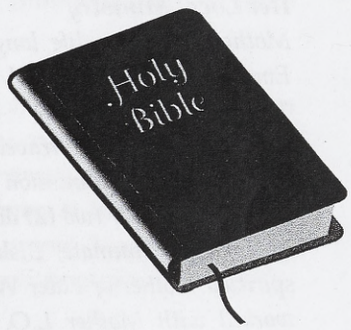
Old Testament.....Sis. Dolores Johnson
New Testament.....Elder Wilbert Jones III

Selection.....Choir
Acknowledgements.....Sis. Julia Boyland
Resolutions.....Sis. Shirley Fuller
Selection.....Choir

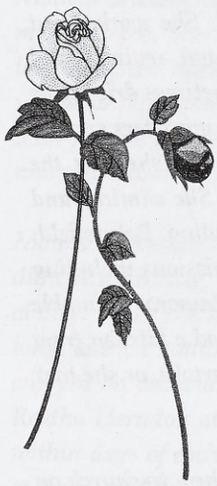
Remarks (3 minutes each)

Ministers

Superintendent Joseph Mayfield
Elder Jimmie Stevens



Emmanuel Women's Department



Mother Kathry Bankhead, Church Mother Emeritus
Evangelist Helen Davis, Asst Church Mother
Evangelist Martha A. Alley, Asst Church Mother
Evangelist Lillia Robinson

Family & Friends

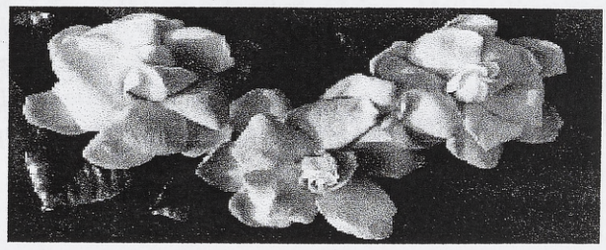
Tribute of Irma Williams
Read by Timika Johnson

Reflections

Sis. Sheila Bankhead Grisham

Obituary.....Evangelist Mary Snow
Solo.....Doris Wilbourne
Eulogy.....Pastor Wilbert Jones, Jr.

Parting View
Recessional



Obituary

1906 was the year of the great San Francisco earthquake and fire as well as the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Azuza Street in Los Angeles. It was also in the year of 1906 on January 3rd in Lucas, Louisiana, that Ben Whitted and Wessie Prestly gave birth to a baby girl named "Rozetter." Little did they know that she was destined to ld grow to become one who would become one of the great pioneers of the faith!! She attended the local schools. She developed into an astute woman of varied skills and talents with a fine eye for aesthetics. She became a skilled cosmetologist, a milliner, a seamstress and a legendary culinary master. While she maintained the common touch, she remained meticulous about her appearance and was always tastefully adorned.

Mother Graham moved to California in the early 1950's. She lovingly reared three children of a dear cousin: H.B., Callie & A.B. Williams, providing them a mother figure. (A.B. Williams recently preceded her in death.) She was married to Mr. Trent Harris, who was employed with a civil engineering company. After many happy years of marriage, Mr. Harris preceded her in death. Mother later married Elder Wallace L. Graham. They worked and traveled together in the ministry. In a photo, Elder Graham is seen sitting a top a large camel on one of their mission trips abroad. Mother Graham became the step-mother to Elder Graham's ten children, five of whom proceeded her in death, as did Elder Graham. Thomas Graham, their youngest son, often drove Mother and Elder Graham in their brand new 1976 Granada on various trips and missions to several destinations including Ontario, Little Rock, Fresno, Stockton, Madera and other locations. The younger Graham said all he remembered growing up was a routine of school, homework and church!

Her Local Ministry

Mother Graham's life long pursuit was to apprehend that for which she was apprehended. She became a member of Emmanuel Church of God in Christ where Bishop S.M. Crouch urged his members to "get ye out and see to the welfare of "others, others, others!!" Mother Graham had a great ministry both at home and on the foreign field. She worked out numerous churches, traveled, took in and trained others in the ministry. She conducted meetings and revivals and maintained several mission works both in the States and over seas. She traveled throughout California sometimes driving or riding the bus for two (2) days. On the local level and in her missions, she worked with several well known ministers such as Elder Noah Shumate, Bishop Rucker, Elder Julius Rogers, Elder and Mother "Big Mama" Caldwel, and she was the spiritual mother of Elder William Woods. Mother Graham was very close to Evang. Lottie Clark Brown. She admired and worked with Mother L.O. Hale and Elder Mayfield.She established works in various locations including Bakersfield, Riverside, Fresno, Merced, Little Rock and surrounding areas. She worked with various churches and/or missions including the Community Chapel on Rosecrans and Willowbrook, Penia Church of God in Christ, at 92nd and Zamora, Humble Mission, Church of God in Christ near Wilmington and El Segundo and many others. Humble Mission had a kitchen from which she could feed those in need. She also prepared food from her own home and invited people over to partake, or she took food to those in need. Cecil Murray, the former longtime Pastor of FAME, was in one of her meetings.

Her passion was for souls. She often loaded up her car with children and those who needed Christ and took them to church on Sundays or to Crouch Temple on First Sundays. She recalls tarrying in prayer with about 21 young people at one of her missions when she looked up and to her surprise, saw that Bishop Crouch had slipped onto the back row to observe the work. When she invited him up to address the congregation, he declined but told her to have the group ready for baptizing the following Sunday!! She was responsible for the salvation and training of many great men and women of God who are now ministers in their own right.

Foreign Mission - Africa

Mother Graham was an International Home and Foreign Mission Worker. She worked with Bishop R. L. Fidler in the National Department of Missions and with National Supervisors, Mother Lillian B. Coffey, and Mother Anne Bailey. Among her travels abroad, Mother Graham traveled to West Africa with Bishop Rucker in the 70's. She would later travel to Africa with her husband, Elder Graham, Dr. Noah Shumate and others. While there, Elder Graham saw Desmond Tutu. She also traveled to Egypt and other foreign destinations. Under the administration of Bishop J.O. Patterson, Mother Graham was appointed Supervisor of Ghana, West Africa by Dr. Anne L. Bailey, National Supervisor of Women.

Mother Graham worked with Bishop Timothy Kabdadzie of the Cherubim & Seraphim Mission Church near Cape Coast Ghana, West Africa, which is memorialized in a prized photograph with over 200 children and workers. She also worked with the Crusaders International School in Takoradi, West Africa and the Crusaders Rescue Movement, which was comprised of hundreds of children and workers. She was much beloved by the people and was treated like a queen. She described an occasion in Ghana where beloved workers placed her in the center of a room and blessed the work by showering her with money for the mission work. Through the efforts of Mother Graham, the lives of hundreds, including many children, were eternally transformed and many hard workers were trained to carry on the work

Mother Graham was inquisitive and maintained an extensive book collection including theological books and various Bible expositors. In keeping with her interest in other cultures, she maintained an extensive National Geographic collection. She had a very sharp mind and had committed much scripture to memory. She continued to read her special devotional books as well as scripture regularly. She kept a Bible open on her bed and often called others to share revelations and insights from her ongoing studies of scripture. She loved to sing the songs of Zion -- she loved the words and meaning of various songs. She often referred to various song books and especially the "Sweet Wonder" Special Song Book of Ecumenical Songs. She wrote the words to many of her favorite songs in her special day book and often called others to minister to them a song or scripture.

Mother Graham was much beloved by many pioneers of the church. Through her generous spirit, she befriended many. She was a frequent visitor of Bishop S.M. Crouch and Sister Lottie Crouch. On a recent visit at the home of Sis Lottie only weeks ago, "Sis. Lottie" and Mother Graham reminisced about the many times Mother Graham brought fresh greens to Bishop and Sis Crouch for dinner. Sis Lottie recalled that they were also so delicious, Bishop looked forward to the treat. In fact, Mother often took greens fresh from the garden and both "picked, washed and cooked" them right at their home. They talked about their travels and of mutual friends and experiences down through the years. Sis. Lottie asked Mother to bring her some greens, but she requested that she "pick and prepare them first" this time before bringing them!!

Mother Graham had such a generous spirit she often gave various gifts of clothing, jewelry, books and other precious items to many people. She actually maintained the clothing and shirt sizes of various people. She loved to cook herself. Up until her last days, she often called her friends to come over to pick up some sumptuous dish she had prepared for them on her big yellow antique stove which she referred to as her "baby." Mother enjoyed people and the simple things in life. She loved to go with friends to various orchards to pick peaches, apples and other fruit and vegetables including greens. She drove until she was well advanced in age. But even after she stopped driving, her friends enjoyed taking her out on little excursions.

Mother remained sharp in her mind and caused many to marvel at her age. Even after her steps had slowed and she had difficulty hearing, she remained both animated, opinionated and virtually self-sufficient. Many marveled at her age and ability. While she lived a long life, many can attest to the fact that God added much life to her years!! Her race was especially long, but she endured and ran it well until the very end. We can't help but marvel at the fact that just a few weeks ago, she enjoyed an audience with Sister Lottie Crouch in her home where they chatted away about old times. She also saw Mother Reatha Herndon at Emmanuel Church. In like manner, Mother Reatha Herndon had a special visit with Sis Lottie. Then, within days of each other as if on cue, these great mighty women in Zion each took flight and had an audience with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! We can only imagine the great celebration they are now enjoying in the company of each other in the very presence of the Lord!!

She leaves to cherish her memory a "son," whom she reared, HB Williams, his wife Irma Williams; a "daughter," Callie Mae Williams, one "niece" Gladys Chamberlain, Three "nephews," Herman Terrell, his wife, Evelyn Terrcell, Luvert Williams and Gerald Williams, his wife, Dione Williams, five Great nieces, Regina Nettles, her husband, Pastor Billy Nettles, Timika Johnson, Lorraine Terrell, Laverne Terrell; Two Great nephews, Gregory Terrell, Herman Terrell, Jr., and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. She was step-mother to ten of the Graham children, five of whom proceeded her in death. She is survived by Willie Graham, Leonard Graham, Finest Graham, Otis Graham and Thomas Graham. Mother Graham is also cherished by her "extended family" Dr. Kathryn Bankhead, Church Mother Emeritus of Emmanuel Church and Sheila Bankhead Grisham and Aaron Bankhead; Mrs. Doris Johnson and Mrs. Lois Hartdige, Evang Lottie Clark Brown, Mrs. Ruby Brown, Ms. Rena Wallace, Mr Ronald McClellon, Mr.and Mrs. Edward Riley, Rev. and Evang. William Woods, Evang. Martha Alley, Mrs. Estella Thomas, Evang. Lillia Robinson, M/M Howard Hicks, Mr and Mrs. Jimmie Stevens, and many, many others.

Active Pallbearers

Elder Lawrence Countee
Elder Archie Brooks
Bro. Ronald McCellan
Deacon Junious Slaughter
Elder Lawrence Weatherall
Elder Lafayette Wilson
Bro. George Wiley
Bro. Tommy James

Honorary Pallbearers

Emmanuel Church Evangelist Board

Our Gratitude

Because you cared you came to share, beautiful flowers and words of prayer
Because you cared, enough to do, words of comfort on cards came too
Calls and visits reached our homes. Because you cared, we're grateful indeed,
You've been a comfort and a friend indeed. Because you cared, we're able to bear,
The grief and sorrow -- there is no despair. Because you cared, we're praying too,
For God's richest blessing for each of you.

Acknowledgement

The family thanks you for the many acts of loving kindness
shown to us during our bereavement.
Whether it was a call, card, a prayer or your presence,
your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered.

Programs

Sheila Bankhead Grisham - Exquisite Expressions

Interment

Angeles Abby Memorial Park

Ashley Grisby Mortuary

Directors in Charge